

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2020-67-E - ORDER NO. 2020-294

APRIL 7, 2020

IN RE: Petition of Georgia Power Company for	)	ORDER APPROVING
Declaratory Order Finding That a Certificate	)	LIKE FACILITY
of Environmental Compatibility and Public	)	DESIGNATION AND NO
Convenience and Necessity is not Required	)	CERTIFICATE OF
or, in the Alternative, Application for a	)	ENVIRONMENTAL
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility	)	COMPATIBILITY AND
and Public Convenience and Necessity for	)	PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
the Construction and Operation of Georgia	)	AND NECESSITY IS
Power's South Carolina Portion of the	)	REQUIRED
Graniteville – South Augusta 230kV Tie	)	
Line and Associated Facilities	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the petition of Georgia Power Company (“Georgia Power” or “Company”) for declaratory order finding that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity is not required or, in the alternative, application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction and operation of Georgia Power’s South Carolina portion of the Graniteville – South Augusta 230kV Tie Line and associated facilities. Georgia Power states that the project will have limited impact on South Carolina by the replacement transmission line and single transmission structure at issue in this matter and because the replacement line and structure are essentially “like facilities” which do not “constitute the construction of a major utility facility” under the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act. Georgia Power does not provide electric energy services to customers in

South Carolina and the facilities at issue in this matter are not intended to be used by Georgia Power to provide energy services to South Carolina electric energy consumers.

As background, in the 1950s, Georgia Power constructed two 115 kV transmission lines for the purpose of interconnecting its transmission system with Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc.'s ("Dominion") (f/k/a South Carolina Electric & Gas Company ("SCE&G")) transmission system on the property of Dominion's Urquhart Generating Station. On December 14, 2016, SCE&G and Georgia Power agreed upon new and upgraded facilities to replace the existing out of service lines and interconnect the two transmission systems at Urquhart Generating Station. The Company states these replacement facilities are critical to the operations of both companies and needed to ensure compliance with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Transmission Planning Standards and each company's own Long-Range Planning Criteria. Georgia Power further states the interconnected facilities reestablish additional electric paths between what is now Dominion's and Georgia Power's electrical transmission systems, which they state are needed to maintain the level of service, operational flexibility, and reliability required and desired by both companies.

Specifically, Georgia Power's portion of the Graniteville #2 South Augusta Tie Line, which replaces a pre-existing 115 kV line in approximately the same location, spans the Savannah River from Georgia Power's South Augusta Substation to a structure supporting the 230 kV transmission line on the South Carolina bank of the Savannah River where the line interconnects with Dominion's 230 kV line, all within the boundaries of Dominion's Urquhart Generating Station in Aiken County. The primary impact to South

Carolina property for the 230 kV line is the supporting tower which sits entirely within the property of Dominion's Urquhart Generating Station and the above ground line that spans the Savannah River from the state boundary line within the river to the supporting transmission tower. Construction is complete and the lines are scheduled to be energized by early May of 2020 for testing and thereafter for commencement of commercial operations on June 1, 2020.

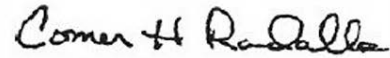
The Office of Regulatory Staff does not object to Georgia Power Company's petition for a declaratory order. Additionally, none of the statutory parties under S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-140 have commented on the matter, and Georgia Power's request is unopposed.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

We find that these interconnection points between the transmission systems of neighboring electric energy companies enhance reliability and efficient operations on both companies' systems and serve to enhance the nationwide transmission grid system. We further find that the replacement of the existing 115 kV line with the described 230 kV line is "the replacement of an existing facility with a like facility" under S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(1) for which no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience is required. Therefore, under the unique circumstances in this matter, this particular 230 kV transmission tie line does not constitute construction of major facilities for which a Certificate would be required under the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act, and thus we approve the request for a declaratory order of the Commission finding that no Certificate is required.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Comer H. "Randy" Randall, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk/Executive Director